

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of March 3, 2009 is respectfully requested.

By this amendment claims 1 and 9 have been amended, claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and claim 21 has been added. Claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are now pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The specification has been reviewed and revised. No new matter has been added by these revisions. Entry of the specification amendments is thus respectfully requested.

II. Prior Art Rejections

Currently, claims 1-3, 7, 9-10 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Baudino (WO 01/32439), claims 4-5, 11-15, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baudino in view of Siegel (US 3,250,033), claims 6 and 20 are stand rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baudino in view of Siegel in further view of Asanuma et al. (US 5,888,636), and claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baudino in view of Kazunori (JP 11-216985).

Claim 1 is patentable over Baudino, Siegel, Asanuma et al., and Kazunori, whether taken alone or in combination, for the following reasons. Claim 1 requires a barrel for a writing implement comprising, *inter alia*, a grip member of layered structure formed by assembling an inner member of a soft material and an outer member, wherein the grip member is formed in an

assembly facilitating shape for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member, wherein each of the inner member and the outer member is formed prior to putting the outer member on the inner member such that each of the inner member and the outer member constitutes a preformed member, and wherein the assembly facilitating shape is a tapered configuration, the inner member being tapered from a back part thereof to a front part thereof and the outer member being tapered from a front part thereof to a back part thereof.

Baudino discloses a multilayer deformable grip including an outer layer (3) and an inner layer (2). Several embodiments of the grip are shown in figures 1-6 of Baudino; however, no embodiment is disclosed in which the inner member is tapered from a back part thereof to a front part thereof and the outer member is tapered from a front part thereof to a back part thereof. Because Baudino does not disclose the inner member being tapered from a back part thereof to a front part thereof and the outer member being tapered from a front part thereof to a back part thereof, Baudino cannot meet the requirements of claim 1. Moreover, Baudino discloses several methods of producing the multilayer deformable grip including coextrusion, molding the outer layer (3) over the inner layer (2), and injection molding the inner layer (2) underneath the outer layer which is positioned on a cylindrical sleeve. (See page 4, line 25 - page 5, line 27 of Baudino.) However, it appears that no embodiment is disclosed in Baudino in which each of the inner member and the outer member is formed prior to putting the outer member on the inner member such that each of the inner member and the outer member constitutes a preformed member. Because Baudino fails to disclose each of the inner member and the outer member being formed prior to putting the outer member on the inner member such that each of the inner member and the outer member constitutes a preformed member, Baudino cannot meet the requirements of claim 1.

Siegel, Asanuma et al., and Kazunori are cited in the Office Action for allegedly disclosing aspects of the invention which are unrelated to the above-described limitations of claim 1, and also fail to disclose the above-described limitations of claim 1. As such, none of those references can meet the requirements of claim 1. Further, it appears that there would have been no reason to modify any of the prior art references of record to yield a configuration which meets the aforementioned limitations of claim 1.

The Office Action states, at pages 4-5, that it would have been obvious to modify Baudino in view of Siegel such that the inner and outer layers of Baudino were separable and removable. As discussed above, Baudino discloses a deformable multilayer grip. The inner layer of the grip of Baudino is formed of a thermoplastic elastomer which is deformable and has a "sponginess;" this inner layer is "sticky and tacky." (See page 5, lines 15-20 and page 1, lines 1-13 of Baudino.) The outer layer of the grip of Baudino is also formed of a thermoplastic elastomer and, while being harder and less absorbent than the inner layer, will nonetheless "deform easily." (See page 2, lines 5-6 and 25-30 of Baudino.) The object of the Baudino reference is providing a grip which is resistant to oil absorption and swelling, yet elastically deforms in response to pressure exerted by the hands of the user. (See page 1 of Baudino.) In contrast, Siegel discloses a ball point pen which is designed to carry a message visible through a transparent sleeve; the pen of Siegel has an inner layer (20) which is formed of a material such as paper, glass, or plastic, and a transparent outer layer (23) which is formed of a material such as glass or plastic. (See column 1, lines 9-11 and column 2, lines 29-34 of Siegel.)

It is unclear how the grip of the Baudino reference could be modified in view of the Siegel reference such that it is separable, as suggested in the Office Action. The grip of Baudino is formed by coextrusion or by molding one layer onto the other layer, as discussed above; it is

unclear what manufacturing and assembly process could be used to render the layers separable, and it is further unclear if such a manufacturing process would be compatible with the materials disclosed in Baudino. The two layers of the grip of Baudino are disclosed as being deformable, sticky, and tacky; as such, it is unclear whether the outer layer of Baudino would even be capable of sliding relative to the inner layer in the manner that the layers of the Siegel reference are capable of doing, the layers of the Siegel reference being formed of completely different materials than those of the Baudino reference. Lastly, it is unclear why a person of ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to modify a comfort-style grip in view of the teachings of a reference in the non-analogous art of displaying a message through a transparent sleeve. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the Baudino and Siegel references would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, and that such a combination of references could not properly be set forth to reject any of the claims of the present application as amended.

It is thus submitted that the invention of the present application, as defined in claim 1, is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, and yields significant advantages over the prior art. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 4-21 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in support of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, inasmuch as all of the outstanding issues have been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain after consideration of the response, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975, with the EXCEPTION of deficiencies in fees for multiple dependent claims in new applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshihiro KOBAYASHI et al.

/Andrew D. St.Clair/

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Andrew D. St.Clair

Registration No. 58,739

Attorney for Applicants

ADS/MSH/rgf
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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DESCRIPTION

BARREL FOR WRITING IMPLEMENT

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a barrel for a writing implement, having a grip part covered with a grip covering member. More specifically, the present invention relates to a barrel for a writing implement, provided with a grip covering member formed
10 by assembling a soft inner member and an outer member.

BACKGROUND ART

A known barrel for a writing implement has a grip part covered with a grip covering member formed by assembling an
15 inner member of a soft material and an outer member.

A writing implement having such a barrel is disclosed in JP 8-197883 A relating to "Grip Structure for Writing Implement and Coating Tool". This known writing implement is provided with a flexible, cylindrical grip member sealing therein a gas, a liquid, a
20 gel or a jelly.

A grip for a writing implement is disclosed in JP 2000-355185 A relating to "Grip for Writing Implement". This known grip has an inner member having a Shore hardness between Hs5 and Hs30 (JIS A) and an outer member having a Shore
25 hardness of Hs40 (JIS A) or above. A grip for a writing implement is disclosed in JP 09-169194 A relating to "Grip for Writing Implement". This known grip is formed by partially fusing together two types of resin members respectively having different hardnesses.

30 ~~Patent document 1: JP 8-197883 A~~
~~Patent document 2: JP 2000-355185 A~~
~~Patent document 3: JP 09-169194 A~~

DISCLOSURE SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

35 ~~Problem to be Solved by the Invention~~

The flexible, cylindrical grip member sealing therein a gas, a

liquid, a gel or a jelly disclosed in ~~Patent document 1JP 8-197883~~ is difficult to fabricate and the gas, the liquid, the gel or the jelly sealed in the flexible, cylindrical grip and it is likely that the gas, the liquid, the gel or the jelly leaks out.

5 The inner and the outer member of the grip disclosed in ~~Patent document 3JP 09-169194~~ are formed on a barrel by a dip coating method, a spray coating method or a two-color injection molding method. The boundary surfaces of the inner and the outer member are fused together or bonded together. Although
10 dependent on surface roughness, it is very difficult to assemble the grip by covering the previously formed inner member with the outer member because the inner and the outer member made of soft materials need to slide relative to each other and against the frictional resistance against which occurs in the relative sliding
15 movement of the inner and the outer member made of soft materials.

 Joining the inner and the outer member by fusion is difficult and costly, the grip thus fabricated is expensive and is not suitable for use on low-price products. It is likely that the respective
20 hardnesses of the inner and the outer member changes when the inner and the outer member are joined together by fusion. When the outer member is transparent or semitransparent and the inner and outer member are colored in different colors, respectively, the colors of the inner and the outer member are mixed in the interface
25 between the inner and the outer member and, consequently, the grip cannot be formed in a desired color.

 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a barrel for a writing implement, provided with a grip having an inner member and an outer member that can be easily
30 assembled.

~~Means for Solving the Problem~~

~~—Invention~~

 The present invention is capable solving the foregoing ~~problem-problem, and~~ will be hereinafter described. Parenthesized
35 reference characters corresponding to reference characters to be used for indicating elements of embodiments of the present

~~invention will be attached to elements of the present invention that will be described herein to facilitate understanding the correspondence of the elements that will be described herein and those of the embodiments.~~ The present invention will be described using the reference characters indicating the elements of the embodiments of the present invention to facilitate understanding the present invention. The present invention is not limited in its practical application to the preferred embodiments described herein.

10 The present invention provides a barrel (1, 11) for a writing implement formed by putting a grip member (G, G') of layered structure formed by assembling an inner member (4, 14) of a soft material and an outer member (5, 15) on a gripping part (3) of a barrel body (2). The inner member (4, 14) is covered with the
15 outer member (5, 15). At least ~~either one~~ of the outside surface (4b, 14b) of the inner member (4, 14) and the outside surface (5b, 15b) of the outer member (5, 15) is formed in an assembly facilitating shape (31, 41, 51) for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member.

20 The assembly facilitating shape (31, 41, 51) may be a protruding and depressed shape.

 The assembly facilitating shape may be a tapered shape.

 The outer member (5, 15) may be put on the inner member (4, 14) so as to be separable from the inner member (4, 14) and
25 the barrel body (2).

 The outer member (5, 15) may be transparent or semitransparent and the inner member (4, 14) may be colored in a color different from that of the outer member (5, 15).

 The inside surface of the outer member (5) may be glossy.

30 The inner member (4, 14) and the outer member (5, 15) may be made of materials of different hardnesses, respectively, the inner member (4, 14) may be made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member (5, 15) may be made of a soft material having a high hardness.

35 The inside diameter of the outer member (5, 15) may be greater than the outside diameter of the inner member (4, 14),

and the outer member (5, 15) may be axially compressed when put on the grip part (3) of the barrel body (2).

The outer member (15) may be provided with a radially inwardly extending protrusion (20) at the front end thereof and the
5 back end surface (20a) of the protrusion (20) may be in contact with the front end surface (14a) of the inner member (14).

A part of the outer member (5, 15) corresponding to the inner member (4, 14) may have a mean wall thickness between 1 and 5 mm.

10 Operation of the Invention

The barrel (1, 11) for a writing implement is provided with the layered grip member (G, G') formed by assembling the inner member (4, 14) of a soft material and the outer member (5, 15) and put on the gripping part (3) of the barrel body (2). The inner
15 member (4, 14) is covered with the outer member (5, 15). At least either of the outside surface (4b, 14b) of the inner member (4, 14) and the outside surface (5b, 15b) of the outer member (5, 15) is formed in the assembly facilitating shape (31, 41, 51) for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member.

20 Therefore, in the barrel (1, 11) for a writing implement according to the present invention, the inner member (4, 14) can be easily covered with the outer member (5, 15), and hence the grip member (G, G') can be easily assembled.

When the assembly facilitating shape (31, 41, 51) is a
25 protruding and depressed shape, resistance against the sliding movement of the outer member (5) along the inner member (4) is low and hence the outer member (5) can be easily put on the inner member (4). When the outer member (5) is deformed to bring the outer member (5) into close contact with the inner member (4),
30 the protruding and depressed shape facilitates the flow of air into a space between the inner member (4) and the outer member (5). Consequently, outer member (5) in close contact with the inner member (4) can easily restore its original state.

When the assembly facilitating shape is a tapered shape,
35 the outer member (5, 15) can be easily put on the inner member (4, 14).

When the outer member (5, 15) is detachably put on the inner member (4, 14) put on the barrel body (2) and is not bonded or fused to the inner member (4, 14), the outer member (5, 15) can be replaced with an outer member of a color and a hardness
5 desired by the user.

When the outer member (5, 15) is transparent or semitransparent and the inner member (4, 14) is colored in a color different from that of the outer member (5, 15), characters and decorative patterns formed on the inner member (4, 14) can be
10 visually recognized and can exercise a decorative effect.

When the inside surface of the outer member (5) is glossy, the inner member (4) and characters and decorative patterns formed on the inner member (4) can be easily seen through the outer member (5).

15 When the inner member (4, 14) and the outer member (5, 15) are made of materials of different hardnesses, respectively, the inner member (4, 14) is made of a soft material having a low hardness, and the outer member (5, 15) is made of a soft material having a high hardness, the outer member (5, 15) made of the soft
20 material having a high hardness which is resistant to swelling due to aging, the possibility that the outer member (5, 15) comes off the inner member (4, 14) due to swelling can be reduced.

When the inside diameter of the outer member (5, 15) is greater than the outside diameter of the inner member (4, 14),
25 and the outer member (5, 15) is axially compressed when put on the grip part (3) of the barrel body (2), the outer member (5, 15) having the inside diameter smaller than the outside diameter of the inner member (4, 14) can be easily put on the inner member (4, 14). Since the outer member (5, 15) is axially compressed when
30 the outer member (5, 15) is put on the gripping part (3) of the barrel body (2), the outer member (5, 15) is difficult to be displaced when a force is exerted thereon when the writing implement is used for writing.

When the outer member (15) is provided with the radially
35 inwardly extending protrusion (20) at the front end thereof and the back end surface (20a) of the protrusion (20) is in contact with the

front end surface (14a) of the inner member (14), the front end of a large area of the outer member (15) is in contact with the front end of the inner member (14). Therefore, the outer member (15) is resistant to displacement and the radially inwardly extending protrusion exercises an improved effect on preventing the displacement of the outer member (15).

Forming the part of the outer member (5, 15) corresponding to the inner member (4, 14) in a mean wall thickness between 1 and 5 mm is more effective in suppressing the deformation of the outer member (5, 15) than forming the outer member (5, 15) in a wall thickness below 1 mm, facilitates putting the outer member (5, 15) on the inner member (4, 14) and makes the outer member (5, 15) to restore its original state after the outer member (5, 15) is deformed and brought into close contact with the inner member (4, 14). Forming the part of the outer member (5, 15) corresponding to the inner member (4, 14) in a mean wall thickness between 1 and 5 mm is more effective in making the hardness and the color of the inner member (4, 14) effective than forming the outer member (5, 15) in a wall thickness above 5 mm.

The soft material may be chosen from generally known elastic materials for forming the grip members (G, G') of writing implements including elastically deformable silicone rubber, natural rubber, isobutylene-isoprene rubber, fluorocarbon rubber, vinyl chloride resins, butadiene rubber, urethane rubber, polyethylene resins, synthetic rubbers and thermoplastic elastomers. The soft materials respectively having different hardnesses may be one and the same soft materials or different soft materials.

Effect of the invention

The present invention provides the barrel for a writing implement, provided with the layered grip member that can be formed by easily assembling the inner member and the outer member.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a fragmentally longitudinal sectional view of a

barrel in a first embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of an essential part of the barrel shown in Fig. 1 for assistance in explaining an assembling procedure;

5 Fig. 3 is a fragmentally longitudinal sectional view of a barrel in a second embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of an essential part of the barrel shown in Fig. 3 for assistance in explaining an assembling procedure;

10 Fig. 5 is a perspective view of an inner member included in a barrel in a third embodiment according to the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an inner member included in a barrel in a fourth embodiment according to the present invention;

15 Fig. 7 is a perspective view of an inner member included in a barrel in a fifth embodiment according to the present invention;
and

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of an inner member included in a barrel in a sixth embodiment according to the present invention.

20 BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which like or corresponding members and the same parts are designated
25 by the same reference characters.

First Embodiment

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a barrel 1 in a first embodiment according to the present invention ~~for a writing implement~~ has a barrel body 2 made of an acrylonitrile-styrene resin (AS resin).
30 The barrel body 2 has a gripping part 3 of a reduced outside diameter. A grip member G is put on the gripping part 3. The grip member G includes a blue inner member 4 made of silicone rubber having a Shore hardness of Hs30 (JIS A) and a transparent outer member 5 made of silicone rubber having a Shore hardness
35 of Hs70 (JIS A). The inner member 4 is put on the gripping part 3 of the barrel body 2, and then the outer member 5 is put on the

inner member 4 so as to cover the inner member 4. A barrel cap 6 having an internally threaded part 7 is attached to the barrel body having an externally threaded part 8 by screwing the internally threaded part 7 on the externally threaded part 8 of the barrel body 2 so that the back end surface 6a of the barrel cap 6 is pressed against the front end surface 4a of the inner member 4 and the front end surface 5a of the outer member 5 to compress the inner member 4 and the outer member 5 to complete the barrel 1 for the writing implement. For example, a ball pen refill having a ball-point tip is inserted in the barrel to form a writing implement.

Fine protrusions and depressions (assembly facilitating shapes) are formed in the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 and the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5. The protrusions and depressions reduce resistance against the sliding movement of the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 along the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 when the outer member 5 is put on the inner member 4 to facilitate assembling the inner member 4 and the outer member 5. Even if the outer member 5 is deformed and the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 is brought into close contact with the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 by pressure exerted on the outer member 5 when the writing implement is used for writing, the outer member 5 can easily restore its original state because the outer member 5 is made of the elastically deformable, soft material and the protrusions and depressions facilitate the flow of air into the gap between the inner member 4 and the outer member 5. Although there are not any restrictions on a method of forming the protrusions and depressions and the shapes of the protrusions and depressions, it is preferable that fine protrusions and fine depressions are formed in the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 and the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 by, for example, satin finish.

The outer member 5 can be easily put on the inner member 4 by forming the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 and the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 in tapered surfaces

tapering toward the front ends, respectively (assembly facilitating shapes). When the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 and the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 are thus tapered, the outside diameters of the front and the back end of the inner member 4 are m and n , where $m < n$, and the inside diameters of the front and the back end of the outer member 5 are M and N , where $M < N$.

The soft materials forming the grip member G absorb moisture and oil considerably and swell and the outside diameter of the inner member 4 and the inside diameter of the outer member 5 increase with time. Consequently, the grip member G tends to move axially when the grip member G is pushed forward by force when the writing implement is used for writing and, when things come to the worst, the outer member 5 comes off the barrel body 2. It is possible to make the outer member 5 difficult to be displaced even if force acts on a front part of the barrel 1 when the writing implement is used for writing by forming the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 and the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 in tapered surfaces tapering toward the front and increasing the wall thickness K of a front part contiguous with the front end 5a of the outer member 5 in contact with the barrel cap 6.

The outer member 5 can be easily put on the inner member 4 and the outer member 5 has difficulty in coming in close contact with the inner member 4 if the inner member 4 and the outer member 5 are formed such that $m < M$ and $n < N$, where m and n are the outside diameters of the front and the back end of the inner member 4, and M and N are the inside diameters of the front and the back end of the outer member 5. In view of dimensional accuracy dependent on forming conditions, it is desirable that the inside diameter of a part of the outer member 5 is greater than the outside diameter of a part of the inner member 4 corresponding to the part of the outer member 5 by about 0.05 mm.

Second Embodiment

A barrel 11 in a second embodiment according to the present invention for a writing implement shown in Figs. 3 and 4 is

substantially the same as the barrel 1 in the first embodiment, except that the barrel 11 in the second embodiment has a grip member G' put on a gripping part 3 of a barrel body 2 and including a semitransparent outer member 15 having a Shore hardness of Hs70 (JIS A) provided with an annular protrusion 20 formed in a front end part thereof so as to protrude radially inward and a transparent inner member 14 having a Shore hardness of Hs50 (JIS A) coated with the outer member 15 with its front end surface 14a in contact with the back end surface 20a of the annular protrusion 20.

Since the front end surface 14a of the inner member 14 is in contact with the back end surface 20a of the radially inwardly protruding annular protrusion 20 of the outer member 15 in an increased contact area, the displacement of the outer member 15 can be effectively prevented by an increased resistance. Since the front end part of the outer member 15 provided with the annular protrusion 20 has an increased wall thickness K' , the inside diameter M' of the front end of the outer layer 15 will hardly become greater than the outside diameter of the back end of a barrel cap 6 even if the inner member 14 and the outer layer 15 swell with time and hence the outer member 15 will not be displaced.

The outside surface 14b of the inner member 14 and the inside surface 15b of the outer member 15, similarly to those of the barrel 1 in the first embodiment, are tapered toward the front (formed in assembly facilitating shapes) such that the outside diameters of the front and the back end of the inner member 14 are m' and n' , and the inside diameters of the front and the back end of the outer member 15 are M' and N' , where $m' < M'$, $n' < N'$. Thus the outer member 15 can be easily put on the inner member 14.

Third Embodiment

A barrel 1 in a third embodiment according to the present invention will be described, in which parts like or corresponding to those of the barrel 1 in the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference characters and the description thereof will be

omitted.

The barrel 1 in the third embodiment is the same as the barrel 1 in the first embodiment and differs from the latter only in the following respects.

5 Referring to Fig. 5 showing an inner member 4 of the barrel in the third embodiment for a writing implement in a perspective view, the inner member 4 has an outside surface 4b provided with a plurality of axial grooves (assembly facilitating shapes) 31. When an outer member 5 is put on the inner member 4 so as to
10 cover the inner member 4, the grooves 31 reduces the area of contact between the inner member 4 and the outer member 5. Consequently, frictional resistance against the movement of the outer member 5 relative to the inner member 4 when the outer member 5 is put on the inner member 4 is reduced and hence the
15 outer member 5 can be easily put on the inner member 4. Even if the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 is brought into close contact with the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 by pressure applied to the outer member 5 when the writing implement is used for writing, the outer member 5 in close contact
20 with the inner member 4 can easily restore its original shape because air can easily flow into the gap between the inner member 4 and the outer member 5. Axial grooves may be formed in the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5 instead of in the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 or may be formed in both the
25 outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 and the inside surface 5b of the outer member 5.

Fourth Embodiment

A barrel 1 in a fourth embodiment according to the present invention will be described, in which parts like or corresponding to
30 those of the barrel 1 in the third embodiment are denoted by the same reference characters and the description thereof will be omitted.

The barrel 1 in the fourth embodiment is the same as the barrel 1 in the third embodiment and differs from the latter only in
35 the following respects.

Referring to Fig. 6 showing an inner member 4 of the barrel

1 in the fourth embodiment for a writing implement in a perspective view, the inner member 4 has an outside surface 4b provided with a plurality of axial grooves (assembly facilitating shapes) 41. Each of the axial grooves 41 is divided into a front groove 41a and a back groove 41b, which are separated by a spacing area 42. As shown in Fig. 6, the spacing areas 42 are formed in a circumferential arrangement at different axial positions, respectively. Thus an outer member 5 of the barrel 1 in the fourth embodiment, similarly to that of the barrel 1 in the third embodiment, can be easily put on the inner member 4. The positions and sizes of the front grooves 41a, the back grooves 41b and the spacing areas 42 may be optionally determined according to a desired design.

Fifth Embodiment

15 A barrel 1 in a fifth embodiment according to the present invention will be described, in which parts like or corresponding to those of the barrel 1 in the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference characters and the description thereof will be omitted.

20 The barrel 1 in the fifth embodiment is the same as the barrel 1 in the first embodiment and differs from the latter only in the following respects.

Referring to Fig. 7 showing an inner member 4 of the barrel 1 in the fifth embodiment for a writing implement in a perspective view, the inner member 4 has an outside surface 4b provided with a plurality of semispherical protrusions (assembly facilitating shapes) 51. Thus an outer member 5 of the barrel 1 in the fifth embodiment, similarly to that of the barrel 1 in the first embodiment, can be easily put on the inner member 4 because resistance against the movement of the outer member 5 relative to the inner member 4 is low.

Sixth Embodiment

35 A barrel 1 in a sixth embodiment according to the present invention will be described, in which parts like or corresponding to those of the barrel 1 in the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference characters and the description thereof will be

omitted.

The barrel 1 in the fifth embodiment is the same as the barrel 1 in the first embodiment and differs from the latter only in the following respects.

5 Referring to Fig. 8 showing an inner member 4 of the barrel 1 in the sixth embodiment for a writing implement in a perspective view, the inner member 4 has a satin finished outside surface 4b provided, similarly to that of the barrel 1 in the first embodiment, with fine protrusions and fine depressions (assembly facilitating shapes). Characters indicating a customer's name are printed on the outside surface 4b. The inner member 4 is covered with a transparent outer member 5. Thus user is can visually recognize the customer's name through the outer member 5. It is likely that a name printed on the gripping part 3 of the barrel body 2 is difficult to recognize visually when the grip member G has a big wall thickness. In the barrel 1 in the sixth embodiment, the customer's name is printed on the outside surface of the inner member 4 and hence the customer's name can be easily visually recognized when the outer member 5 is not excessively thick.

20 Characters to be printed on the outside surface 4b of the inner member 4 are not limited to those indicating the customer's name, but may be characters indicating a trade name, or a maker's name, a design or a decorative pattern. The outer member 5 may be semitransparent. The inner member 4 may be semitransparent or transparent. The inner member 4 and the characters printed on the inner member 4 can be easily recognized when the inside surface of the outer member 5 is glossy and the outside surface of the inner member 4 is satin-finished.

Modifications

30 Although the present invention has been described in its preferred embodiments, ~~obviously many~~ changes and variations are possible ~~therein-therof~~ without departing from the scope of the present invention. Possible modifications will be described below.

35 Although the grip member of the present invention may be ~~colored in any colors~~ any color, it is preferable to form the inner and the outer member in different colors, respectively, for an improved

decorative effect.

Although the inner and the outer member may be formed in any suitable hardnesses, respectively, it is desirable to make the inner member of a soft material having a low hardness because
5 soft materials having a Shore hardness of Hs40 or below are likely to swell with time.

In each of the foregoing embodiments, the inner and the outer members are formed separately, the inner member is put on the gripping part of the barrel body, and then the outer member is
10 put on the inner member. The inner and the outer member may be integrally formed by a two-color injection molding method. Another member may be disposed on the gripping part so as to underlie the inner member.

According to the present invention, the inner member is
15 covered with the outer member. The outer member may be put on the inner member put on the barrel body or the grip member formed by assembling the inner and the outer member may be put on the barrel body, provided that the corresponding surfaces of the inner and the outer member are not fused or bonded together and
20 the inner member is covered with the outer member. The inner and the outer member may be fused or bonded together so that the outside surface of the inner member and the inside surface of the outer member may not be affected after covering the inner member with the outer member. However, it is preferable to put
25 the outer member detachably on the inner member to enable the replacement of the outer member with another outer member of a color and a soft material having a hardness desired by the user.

Although there are not any particular restrictions on the respective wall thicknesses of the inner and the outer member, the
30 outer member deforms easily, is difficult to put on the inner member and cannot easily restore its original state when the outer member is brought into close contact with the inner member if the wall thickness of the outer member is below 1 mm. Preferably, the mean wall thickness of the outer member is between 1 and 5 mm
35 because the effects of the inner member including the hardness and the color become ineffective when the wall thickness of the

outer member is greater than 5 mm. The mean wall thickness of the outer member is the mean of wall thicknesses of parts of the outer member corresponding to the inner member.

5 The axial grooves 31 and 41 of the barrels in the third and the fourth embodiment may be replaced with axial ridges rising from the outside surfaces 4b.

Each of the grip members G and G' of the barrels in the first and the second embodiment is provided with two types of assembly facilitating shapes, namely, the tapered surface, and the protrusions and depressions. Each of the grip members G and G' 10 may be provided with only either of the two types of assembly facilitating shapes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 ~~Fig. 1 is a fragmentally longitudinal sectional view of a barrel in a first embodiment according to the present invention for a writing implement;~~

~~Fig. 2 is a sectional view of an essential part of the barrel shown in Fig. 1 for assistance in explaining an assembling procedure;~~ 20

~~Fig. 3 is a fragmentally longitudinal sectional view of a barrel in a second embodiment according to the present invention for a writing implement;~~

~~Fig. 4 is a sectional view of an essential part of the barrel shown in Fig. 3 for assistance in explaining an assembling procedure;~~ 25

~~Fig. 5 is a perspective view of an inner member included in a barrel in a third embodiment according to the present invention for a writing implement;~~

30 ~~Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an inner member included in a barrel in a fourth embodiment according to the present invention for a writing implement;~~

~~Fig. 7 is a perspective view of an inner member included in a barrel in a fifth embodiment according to the present invention for a writing implement; and~~ 35

~~Fig. 8 is a perspective view of an inner member included in~~

~~a barrel in a sixth embodiment according to the present invention for a writing implement.~~

REFERENCE CHARACTERS

- 5 ~~1, 11 ... Barrels for writing implements~~
- ~~2 ... Barrel body~~
- ~~3 ... Gripping part~~
- ~~4, 14 ... Inner members~~
- ~~4a, 14a ... Front end surfaces~~
- 10 ~~4b, 14b ... Outside surfaces~~
- ~~5, 15 ... Outer members~~
- ~~5a, 15a ... Front end surfaces~~
- ~~5b, 15b ... Inside surfaces~~
- ~~6 ... Barrel cap~~
- 15 ~~6a ... Back end surface~~
- ~~7 ... Externally threaded part~~
- ~~8 ... Internally threaded part~~
- ~~14a ... Front end surface~~
- ~~20 ... Annular protrusion~~
- 20 ~~20a ... Back end surface~~
- ~~31, 41, 51 ... Assembly facilitating shapes~~
- ~~G, G' ... Grip members~~
- ~~K, K' ... Thicknesses of the front end parts of outer members~~
- ~~L ... Outside diameter of the back end of the barrel cap~~
- 25 ~~m, n' ... Outside diameters of the front ends of inner members~~
- ~~n, n' ... Outside diameters of the back ends of inner members~~
- ~~M, M' ... Inside diameters of the front ends of outer members~~
- ~~N, N' ... Inside diameters of the back ends of the outer members~~

ABSTRACT

A barrel for a writing implement ~~includes:~~includes a barrel body having a gripping part, and a grip member of layered structure formed by assembling an inner member of a soft material
5 and an outer member, and is put on the gripping part of the barrel body. The inner member is covered with the outer member, and at least ~~either one~~ one of the outside surface of the inner member and the inside surface of the outer member is formed in an assembly
10 facilitating shape for facilitating putting the outer member on the inner member.